

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

MINUTES OF THE UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2008, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,

4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix 85012

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gary Fredricks with proper ceremonies.

Guest Speaker Henry Branch, Arizona Dept Commander, American Legion, was welcomed by Chairman Fredricks. Commander Branch stated that the American Legion is at the forefront, advocating veterans' rights and benefits, and keeping lobbying up. The Legion's issues include the needs of rural veterans, disabled veterans, and homeless veterans. The AZ Dept American Legion actively supports the Military Hospitality Room at Terminal 2, Sky Harbor Airport (recently, a \$3000 support check was presented). Commander Branch has served on the Governor's Council Task Force for Veterans. He also attended the American Legion Fall Conference in Indianapolis in July. The Legion supported the enhanced GI Bill (effective date : 8/1/09). The AZ Dept American Legion is supportive of a military museum in Phoenix. Chairman Fredricks thanked Commander Branch for participating in the meeting and addressing the UAV representatives.

The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business. There was one correction to the minutes of the October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting: Regarding UAV Incorporation, motion was made by Mel Brody vice Webb Ellis (top of page 2 of the 10/4/08 Minutes). Motion made and seconded by George Cushing and Mel Brody, respectively, to accept the Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: Letter received from Military Order of the World Wars, requesting to join UAV. All were in agreement.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Adams reported that she is transferring all funds to the Chase Bank account. The \$5,000 CD matures in April 2009.

Sickness and Distress: Donna Adams and George Cushing thanked everyone for the cards, emails, and phone calls received during their recent illnesses.

PRESENTATION -- Gabe Forsberg, Plans and Development Manager, AZ Dept of Veterans Services, reported that Rules are being developed based on the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) Bylaws. A meeting on the Rules is scheduled for January 6, 2009. (Background info on the MFRF: signed into law by Governor Napolitano in 2007, provides for stipends for military families whose loved ones were injured or killed fighting the Global War on Terrorism, creates a tax credit for donations to the Fund (a dollar-for-dollar reduction of tax). By law, 95% of all donations go to Arizona military families).

## REPORTS

1. UAV Board of Directors meeting held 11/1/08, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

UAV Incorporation - Chairman Fredricks reported that subject to final approval by the membership, he intends to submit the paperwork for incorporation to the Arizona Corporation Commission in January. Also, subject to final membership approval, the paperwork for tax exempt status would later be submitted as a 501(c)(4).

UAV Elections – Chairman Fredricks reported that the required bylaws changes to move the elections from May to January were prepared as directed at the October meeting. He clarified that moving the elections from May to January would enable the new Chairman of UAV to be involved in UAV's early planning and preparations for the October Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony event.

Speakers at UAV Meetings – Responding to Bo Bohach's suggestion at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that we invite speakers of veterans organizations, Chairman Fredricks appointed Vice Chair Mel Brody to this task.

2. Arizona Dept of Veteran Services – Public Affairs Officer Dave Hampton reported that there is a new office in Safford. Following the Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Elections, the House and the Senate will determine their new leaders. \$10 million has been set aside to build a State veteran home in Tucson. Arizona, unlike other states, does not fund the operation of the veteran's homes.

Webb Ellis mentioned the availability of ALIS/Arizona Legislative Information System, which is an information service of the Arizona Legislature, designed to promote increased public access to, and awareness of, the legislative process. Chairman Fredricks asked Legislative Chair Fulkerson to brief the membership about ALIS at the next meeting. Donna Adams asked that the Legislative Chair identify legislative issues for the membership.

3. UAV Legislative Committee - Legislative Chair Fulkerson reported that she has received two nominations so far for the Copper Shield Award. Nominations are due Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Voting by UAV members will occur at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

4. VA Medical Center – Rex Patterson, Patient Advocate, reported there is a VAMC web site, [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov), where veterans can refill prescriptions, and check on appointments and laboratory test results. The phone number for the Fee Basis Dept is 602.277.5551 x2933 – this is the dept which assists veterans who are authorized to receive medical services from outside sources. The clothing allowance procedure handled by the Prosthetics Dept has changed. In the past, the Dept was able to check on the status of a patient's clothing allowance. The Prosthetics Dept is now required to contact the VETSNET Office, VAMC Lincoln, NE, which processes VA claims for compensation and benefits. This additional step will likely delay the clothing allowance a little. Due to an increased volume of paging requests, the use of the VAMC Phoenix public address system is being restricted to emergency announcements;. For those who wish to volunteer at the VAMC, please telephone 602.277.5551 and ask for Mike Achey, Volunteer Services Coordinator. Karen Sparks has recently assumed the duties of Patient Advocate.

5. National Memorial Cemetery Cave Creek – Director Wayne Ellis reported that there are 2 vacancies at the Cemetery: caretaker and heavy equipment operator. Starting in October, formal honors can be arranged on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

#### UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

1. October 24<sup>th</sup> Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2008 Induction Ceremony - Chairman Fredricks reported a very successful ceremony attended by approximately 550 persons. Twenty (20) Class of 2008 members were inducted. Improvement areas include better lighting of the stage area. Motion made and seconded by Donna Adams and Bo Bohach, respectively, that gift cards of \$25 each be presented to Ellen and Jackie of the Shrine Auditorium wait staff for exemplary support of past AVHOF receptions and luncheons. Motion carried.

2. Amendment of UAV Bylaws – There was discussion, and motion was made and seconded by Donna Adams and Carol Hamburger, respectively, to move the elections from May to January. Motion did not pass. The elections will therefore remain in May.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion was made and seconded by Bo Bohach and George Cushing, respectively, to waive the UAV dues of such organizations as Medal of Valor and Pearl Harbor Survivors. Chairman Fredricks agreed to research the bylaws to see what action would be required to waive these dues. The Chairman will report back to the membership at the December meeting.
2. Motion made and seconded by Donna Adams and George Cushing, respectively, that UAV provide a \$100 donation to the State Veteran Home for use of its facilities. Motion carried.
3. Speakers for the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> UAV Meeting include Joan Sisco regarding Veterans First, and BGEN Gregg Maxon, National Guard, Retired, regarding the new Veterans Diversion Court.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.

1. 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cliff Garrett Memorial Rodeo, Gilbert Rodeo Park, with net proceeds to Arizona Homeless Veterans Standown, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend (Lew Bradley)
2. "From Baghdad With Love" Luncheon and Book Signing, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, 11:30 a.m.
3. November 8<sup>th</sup>, Flag Retirement Ceremony, Sunland Memorial Park, Northwest Valley. (George Cushing)
4. Veterans Day Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup> in downtown Phoenix.
5. All are invited to participate in the memorial service for the father of Judith Hatch's sons at Falcon Field, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 p.m. (Judith Hatch)
6. Nov 25<sup>th</sup> JROTC and Armed Forces Career Officer Day Luncheon, Cost \$25, 11:30 a.m., Elks Lodge, 14424 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Phoenix, AZ 85032 (Vic Conner, Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), Arizona Territorial Chapter).
7. Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration and Memorial Service scheduled for 10:55 A.M. on Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, Wesley Bolin Plaza, downtown Phoenix. (Donna Adams)
8. The American Veterans Traveling Tribute, formerly known as the Vietnam Wall, will be displayed on March 11-17, 2009 in Apache Junction. Volunteers are needed. (Lew Bradley)

## CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

1. UAV 50/50 Raffle – Winner was Linda Fulkerson, \$31; with \$31 given to Acting Treasurer Mel Brody.
2. The next UAV meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The meeting room will be Liberty Hall, Second floor, AZ State Veteran Home. The time change is to enable UAV representatives to participate in the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at 10:55 a.m., Wesley Bolin Plaza.
3. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. with a closing salute to the flag.

Respectfully submitted,

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